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THE ASSOCIATED ACADEMIC PRINCIPALS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

THE eleventh holiday conference of the Associated Academic Principals of the State of New York was held at Syracuse, December 26 and 27 last. The leading teachers and school officers of the state were present, and the earnest spirit and ability with which the discussions were conducted made the meeting a notable one. As usual, the sessions were held in the High School building, but the headquarters of the Conference were at the Yales, and the opportunities for conversation and discussion offered by the gatherings in the hotel corridors were among the most pleasant and profitable features of the meeting.

Of all the subjects that engaged the attention of the conference the discussion of the Ainsworth Law was perhaps the most important. The question, "What modification of the 'Ainsworth Law' ought this Association to advocate?" was set down as one of the special topics for the opening session Thursday morning, but after a short discussion it was resolved to make the bill the principal topic at the Friday morning session, at which Mr. Ainsworth was expected to be present.

When the subject was resumed the following morning Principal Smith, of Lansingburgh, spoke in favor of the law. Following him, Principal Baker made the suggestion that that part of the law which required special text-books, one-fifth of whose space must be devoted to the subject of the effects of alcohol and narcotics, ought to be abolished and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or the Board of Regents should formulate a syllabus for the schools to follow.

Another suggestion was made by Principal Allen, of Rochester, that the local authorities should be allowed to formulate their own syllabus.

In response to repeated calls, Mr. Ainsworth finally took the

floor and delivered a very able speech in support of the law. It was, however, a special plea, and the gentleman did not discuss the various criticisms that had been made against the bill from the teachers' point of view. Following Mr. Ainsworth brief remarks were made by Secretary Dewey, of the Board of Regents, and Superintendent Skinner, in which each speaker defined his own attitude toward the law.

Of the discussion that followed, it may be said in general that it was not held closely to the subject of the needed modification of the Ainsworth Law, and some confusion resulted from the disposition of the members, on the one hand, to resent the imputation that as a body they were disposed to disobey a law of the state, and their desire, on the other hand, not to put themselves on record as approving a law to some provisions of which they were, as teachers, opposed. The discussion was finally ended by the unanimous adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That this body of academic principals at their regular holiday conference desires to put itself on record as in hearty sympathy with the beneficent purposes of the Ainsworth Law, but is earnestly in favor of certain modifications in details which shall not interfere with the moral integrity of the law. The question "what modification of the 'Ainsworth Law' ought this association to advocate?" was referred to the consideration of the committee on legislation, which had been previously appointed.

The other notable feature of the meeting was the address of State Superintendent Charles R. Skinner, Thursday evening. The Association of Grammar School Principals was also in session at Syracuse, and in response to an invitation to address a joint meeting of the two bodies, Superintendent Skinner spoke on the True Aim of Education. The ideal which the speaker proposed was high, and while the teachers of the state were not unacquainted with the spirit that animates the head of the department, it was none the less gratifying to have this public assurance of the disposition of the superintendent to sacrifice all non-essentials in the desire to find common ground on which all could work together for a common end.

The session Thursday afternoon was chiefly occupied with the consideration of questions relating to the organization and work of Teachers' Training Classes. The discussion seemed to develop the fact that the compensation was insufficient to induce the local authorities, at least in the smaller communities, to maintain the Training Classes under present requirements, and it seemed to show also that in certain quarters where the demand for teachers was fully equal to the supply, the requirements for admission were too severe, and the time and work requirements too exacting.

An amendment was made to the constitution by which all ex-principals become eligible to membership, thus removing the restriction by which hitherto only those who had been in service five years or more were eligible. The association also appointed a committee on legislation, to consist of Principals Robinson, of Albany; Norris, of Canandaigua, and Allen, of Rochester. A committee, consisting of Principals Leonard, of Binghamton; Evans, of Elmira, and Lovell, of Niagara Falls, was appointed to urge upon the colleges of New York state the desirability of agreeing upon uniform requirements for admission to their several courses. The noon Friday conference adjourned after electing the following officers: President, John G. Allen, of Rochester; Vice-President, F. D. Boynton, of Ithaca; Treasurer, S. Dwight Arms, of Palmyra; Executive Committee, C. W. Evans, of Elmira; L. E. Rowley, of Lowville, and E. D. Merriman, of Malone.

F. H. HOWARD